GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1023
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2002
DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM
RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any improvement in the arrival of tourists in the recent past;

(b) if so, the number of tourists visited India during the current year;

(c) whether records of leading hotels, airports and tourist spots have shown that foreign tourist feel safe in India since June, 2002 onwards;

(d) if so, the extent to which the tourist arrivals have picked up since then; and

(e) the facilities and the steps being taken by the Union Government to attract more foreign tourists?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a): There has been a positive growth of 16.8 per cent in foreign tourist arrivals in the month of October, 2002 as compared to October 2001.

(b): The number of foreign tourists who visited India during the period January to October 2002 is 1.83 million.

(c): According to a survey report released in the month of June 2002 by the HotelAssociation of India, majority of the tourist did not perceive any threat to their safety & security and preferred air travel in India only on account of safety.

(d): The tourist arrivals are estimated to have increased from 143100 in June 2002 to 212191 in October 2002.

(e): The Department of Tourism has the following short-term and long-term plans to make tourism more attractive and thereby attracting more foreign tourists in the country:-

? Positioning and maintaining tourism development as a National priority activity.
? Enhancing and maintaining the competitiveness of India as a tourism destination.
? Improving India's existing tourism products and expanding these to meet new market requirements.
? Creation of world class infrastructure.
? Developing sustained and effective market plans and programmes.
? Special thrust to rural and small segment tourism.
? Attention to civilisational issues and issues pertaining to civil administration good governance and also of social and cultural values.
? Development of tourism circuits and improvement of wayside amenities to facilitate growth in domestic tourism.